



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2012



PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

ERICA J. BORGGREN, DIRECTOR



TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

It is my privilege to present the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report.

Simply stated, our mission is to empower Veterans to thrive. As you will see, our 1,260 staff members professionally execute that mission every day. We do this not just as an expression of our debt of gratitude to those who have served, but also for the sake of our communities and companies; after all, Veterans are proven public servants from whose efforts **all** of Illinois stands to benefit. That is why we at IDVA are proud to assist the more than 800,000 Veterans who live in Illinois, as well as their dependents and survivors.

For years, Illinois has been a national leader in the endeavor to serve those who have served. We have developed and run innovative programs to meet the needs of our Veterans, their dependents, and the families of our fallen. Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are experts in helping Veterans navigate the complex system of federal, state, and local benefits and resources available to them. And our four Veterans Homes provide quality care to hundreds of aging heroes.

IDVA made great strides in serving our heroes even better during FY2012:

- We are on course to build a new 200-bed Veterans' Home on the Northwest side of Chicago, with groundbreaking scheduled for late FY2013. We've also worked to upgrade our four existing Veterans' Homes, adding wireless internet capability and updating the maintenance fee structure for the first time in 30 years.
- The Department has undertaken a number of programs to tackle the veteran unemployment issue. IDVA helped pass a Hiring Veterans Tax Credit, partnered with DCEO to support a number of job training programs for veterans, and began working with multiple state agencies to hasten the licensing process to transitioning service members.
- Outreach to Veterans improved in FY2012 through the creation of IDVA's newsletter, which reaches thousands of individuals and hundreds of individual veterans each month with news about events, legislation, and resources. We also increased access to our VSO's through the launch of a Stand Up and Be Counted campaign, which encourages veterans to register online as veterans and has resulted in over 4,000 veterans accessing VSO services. Finally, we rebranded our website to better communicate the IDVA mission and our associated programs and resources.
- Over the course of FY2011, the Department awarded 28 grants totaling \$1,141,883 from the Veterans' Cash Lottery proceeds. These organizations help provide PTSD treatment and research, long term health care, health insurance cost relief, disability benefits, and housing assistance.
- The Department launched a Women Veterans Program in FY2012, reaching out to the community of women Veterans in Illinois through an online survey and resource listing, as well as through the design of Women Veterans' Fairs and an entrepreneurship training program for women Veterans for implementation in FY2013.

- The State Approving Agency continued to work with institutions of higher learning to monitor programs receiving GI Bill funding for compliance, to advise schools on how to best serve their student veterans, and to educate Veterans on educational benefits and the Troops to Teachers program.

I am proud of the services rendered to Illinois' Veterans by the Department in FY 2012, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve at the helm of our professional, experienced team of Veteran advocates. I look forward to continued work with them, our many partner organizations, and the General Assembly to serve Veterans ever better in the year to come.

Erica J. Borggren
Director

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

The long and proud history of State of Illinois service to Veterans began in 1886 with the establishment of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home for Civil War Veterans. Created through legislation enacted in 1945, the Illinois Veterans' Commission was responsible for state services to Veterans until 1976, when it was succeeded by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Department, created by Public Act 79-376, is charged with responsibility for the welfare and needs of Illinois Veterans, their dependents and survivors. The Department maintains administrative offices in Springfield and Chicago, four Veterans Homes, and more than 73 full- and part-time field offices servicing the 102 counties of the state.

Through the field offices, Veterans and their families obtain assistance in navigating the complex system of federal, state, and local resources and benefits. Acting as Veterans' authorized representatives, the Department's licensed Service Officers provide counseling and assistance in presenting claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of Veterans and their dependents or survivors; these claims may include disability compensation, education benefits, pensions, insurance, hospitalization and rehabilitation. Services also include confirming Veterans' eligibility for state benefits and services, as well as assisting Veterans in coordinating with local, state and federal agencies.

In FY2012, the Department was funded to provide to skilled nursing care to an average of 901 Veterans each month through Veterans' Homes in Quincy, Manteno, LaSalle, and Anna. These Homes primarily provide licensed skilled care beds available to Veterans in need of long term care; Quincy and Anna also have a limited number of domiciliary beds for residents who do not require skilled care. In addition, the Department is in the planning stages for a 200-bed Veterans Home in Chicago. All of the Homes are inspected by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and licensed and inspected by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The Homes strive to provide the highest quality nursing care to Illinois Veterans. Their objective is to rehabilitate each resident to the maximum attainable level of independent function and to provide a welcoming, comfortable, and safe environment. A further goal is to make available to residents psychosocial and cultural activities designed to foster dignity, self-respect, and residents' personal recreational interests.

The Department assists in coordinating services and activities among state and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that serve Veterans. To accomplish this, the Department serves on a number of statutory committees and task forces and works in partnership with several federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Labor. The Department has established and maintains a network of advocacy with a variety of state agencies including Department of Employment Security, Department of Corrections, Department on Aging, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Department of Public Aid, Department of Human Services, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Health and Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

The key initiatives of the Department this year have been increased outreach efforts through the agency newsletter better access to Veteran Service Officers online; additional programs and

initiatives to address the veteran unemployment issue; development of a Women Veterans' Program; continued work toward opening the 200-bed Chicago Veterans Home; and continued support of the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program, the Veterans Cash Lottery Ticket Grant Program, Veterans Courts in various counties, and the Veterans Care Program.

All figures are in thousands.

FY 2012
AGENCY SUMMARY

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
General Revenue Fund	\$ 64,149.5	\$ 64,149.5	\$ 62,678.8	\$ 1,470.7
Home Fund	\$ 52,603.9	\$ 52,603.9	\$ 42,619.7	\$ 9,984.2
OTHER	\$ 5,879.1	\$ 5,879.1	\$ 4,134.5	\$ 1,744.6
TOTAL APPROPRIATED FUNDS	<u>\$ 122,632.5</u>	<u>\$ 122,632.5</u>	<u>\$ 109,433.0</u>	<u>\$ 13,199.5</u>
NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS	<u>\$ 54.5</u>	<u>\$ 54.5</u>	<u>\$ 54.5</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL AGENCY	<u>\$ 122,687.0</u>	<u>\$ 122,687.0</u>	<u>\$ 109,487.5</u>	<u>\$ 13,199.5</u>

ADMINISTRATION

Erica J. Borggren

Director

Rodrigo Garcia

Assistant Director

Simon Wlodarski

Chief of Staff

Miguel Calderon

Manager of Human Resources

Deborah L. Miller

Chief Fiscal Officer

Anthony Kolbeck

Legislative Liaison

Jaime Martinez

Legal Counsel

Graham Osmonson

Chief Information Officer

Amy Amizich

Grants Division Supervisor

Kevin Cavanaugh

Grants and Special Projects

Harry F. Sawyer

Manager, Field Services

Jeff Willis

Northern Division Supervisor

Lisa Tisdale

Central Division Supervisor

Earl White

Southern Division Supervisor

Anthony Vaughn

Metro Chicago Area Supervisor

Joe Petrosky

Appeals Supervisor

Joan L. Ryan

*Administrator,
State Approving Agency*

Joy Ward

Senior Home Administrator

Gwen M. Diehl

*Veterans' Homes Capital Development
Coordinator*

Bruce Vaca

*Administrator,
Quincy Veterans' Home*

Reginald Booker

*Administrator,
Manteno Veterans' Home*

John Koehler

*Administrator,
LaSalle Veterans' Home*

Steve Emling

*Administrator,
Anna Veterans' Home*

Deanna Mackey

*Administrator,
Prince Homeless Program*

CENTRAL OFFICE

The majority of the administrative oversight of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is conducted at the Central Office in Springfield and Chicago. The Fiscal, Personnel, Information Technology, Supply and Services and Legislative Divisions are headquartered in Central Office. The Central Office is also home to the staffs of the Grants Program and the State Approving Agency (SAA) Program.

The **Fiscal Division** is responsible for all centralized accounting and vouchering functions and the preparation and execution of the annual budget. This division also coordinates all GAAP, property control, lease, and procurement activities of the department and oversees fiscal operations at each of the Veterans' Home through their respective business offices.

The **Senior Home Administrator** supervises leadership and operations of all four Veterans' Homes; ensures Homes' compliance with federal and state standards of long-term care; develops Department-wide policies for the Homes; and serves as a key subject-matter expert for Department leadership.

The **Veterans Homes Coordinator** conducts long range planning for the future care needs of Illinois Veterans; serves as liaison with the Capital Development Board for capital improvement projects; and ensures that federal assistance and grants are submitted to reduce state expenditures.

The **Human Resources Division** is responsible for all employment, payroll, insurance, time and attendance, workers' compensation and unemployment claims. This unit also oversees personnel operations at each of Veterans' Home through their respective Human Resources Office.

The **Information Technology Division** is responsible for managing and supporting technological innovation of the Department, improving Veterans' services through the use of technology, and the secure storage of computerized data. The IT Division maintains the computer communications hub for the Department and is the central link for supporting technologies employed at our Veterans' Homes and the field offices.

Supply and Services Section works in conjunction with all other divisions in providing supplies and is responsible for the printing of forms and brochures for the agency. This division handles all incoming and outgoing correspondence including all ground and air deliveries and also oversees upkeep and maintenance of the Central Office automobile fleet.

The **Legislative Office** works in conjunction with the Governor's legislative office, elected officials, and the Senate and House staff. The Legislative Liaison provides assistance with constituent questions and concerns, drafts legislation pursuant to agency needs and testifies in committee on issues pertaining to Veterans.

The **Legal Division** is responsible for agency-wide legal support, to include: all litigation matters in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the General Counsel; liability review of goods and services contracts; legal review of all internal policy directives and application of external policy directives; operational legal review of Veterans Home administration; preliminary and post-investigation recommendations; drafting and coordination

of Intergovernmental Agreements across state agencies in support of shared programs and services; case-by-case legal review of State grants and veteran-related benefit determinations; and legal analysis and research of Agency initiatives and programs. This division also coordinates and administers the Agency's Joint Committee of Administrative Rules process and the Agency's Legal Externship program. Additionally, the General Counsel serves as the Agency's Ethics Officer, the Freedom of Information Act Officer, and the Public Access Officer.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (FY2012)

FISCAL YEAR 2012

PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

(In Thousands)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
CENTRAL OFFICE	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 8,106.9	\$ 2,502.2
APPROPRIATED	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 8,106.9	\$ 2,502.2
CENTRAL OFFICE	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 10,609.1	\$ 8,106.9	\$ 2,502.2
GRF	\$ 6,336.1	\$ 6,336.1	\$ 5,321.4	\$ 1,014.7
IMFRF	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 21.0	\$ 229.0
IVHF	\$ 150.0	\$ 150.0	\$ -	\$ 150.0
IVAF	\$ 3,500.0	\$ 3,500.0	\$ 2,704.5	\$ 795.5
IAHTF	\$ 223.0	\$ 223.0	\$ 60.0	\$ 163.0
Operations	\$ 5,098.6	\$ 5,098.6	\$ 4,501.8	\$ 596.8
Personal Services	\$ 3,559.5	\$ 3,559.5	\$ 3,165.8	\$ 393.7
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 272.3	\$ 272.3	\$ 234.8	\$ 37.5
Contractual Services	\$ 486.2	\$ 486.2	\$ 476.7	\$ 9.5
Travel	\$ 21.7	\$ 21.7	\$ 19.2	\$ 2.5
Commodities	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 4.1	\$ 5.9
Printing	\$ 6.7	\$ 6.7	\$ 5.2	\$ 1.5
Equipment	\$ 4.5	\$ 4.5	\$ -	\$ 4.5
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 667.7	\$ 667.7	\$ 530.0	\$ 137.7
Telecommunications	\$ 50.6	\$ 50.6	\$ 48.3	\$ 2.3
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 19.4	\$ 19.4	\$ 17.7	\$ 1.7
PTSD Outpatient Counseling Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Veterans' Conservation Corp Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 819.6	\$ 417.9
GRF	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 819.6	\$ 417.9
Illinois Warrior Assistance Program	\$ 297.0	\$ 297.0	\$ 223.8	\$ 73.2
Bonus Payments to War Veterans	\$ 297.0	\$ 297.0	\$ 179.5	\$ 117.5
Global War on Terrorism Bonus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Educational Opportunities	\$ 99.0	\$ 99.0	\$ 54.8	\$ 44.2
Cartage & Erection of Headstones	\$ 544.5	\$ 544.5	\$ 361.5	\$ 183.0
MIA/POW Scholarship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IMFRF				
Illinois Military Family Relief Fund	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 21.0	\$ 229.0
IAHTF				
Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$ 223.0	\$ 223.0	\$ 60.0	\$ 163.0
IVHF				
Illinois Veterans' Homes Fund (Survivors' Compensation)	\$ 150.0	\$ 150.0	\$ -	\$ 150.0
IVAF				
Veterans Assistance Fund Grant Program	\$ 3,500.0	\$ 3,500.0	\$ 2,704.5	\$ 795.5

GRANTS DIVISION

(Awards / Grants / Records)

The Grants Division is responsible for the administration of the numerous grants programs run by the Department, including education grants and bonuses. This division also houses more than 1.7 million Veterans' records, dating from the Civil War Era to the present, and is responsible for recording discharges and maintaining an honor roll of deceased Veterans in Illinois. To further enhance the Department's ability to store and utilize these records, a project to convert these documents into electronic format is underway; to date, 1,997,383 military documents have been added to the electronic database.

EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN (10-18). Financial aid is provided annually to each child, between the age of 10 and 18 years, of a Veteran who died or became totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces during wartime.

MIA/POW SCHOLARSHIP. The dependents of a Veteran who has been declared by the U.S. Department of Defense or US Department of Veterans Affairs to be a prisoner of war, to be missing-in-action, to have died as a result of a service-connected disability, or to be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100 percent disability, and who is an Illinois resident or was an Illinois resident within six months of entering service, and until July 1, 2014, became an Illinois resident within 6 months after leaving the service and can establish at least 30 years of continuous residency in the State of Illinois, may be eligible for the scholarship. An eligible dependent is entitled to full payment of tuition to the state supported Illinois institution of higher learning consisting of the equivalent of four calendar years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms.

ILLINOIS VETERAN GRANT (IVG). The program pays tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges, universities, and community colleges for Illinois residents.

An individual must:

- be a veteran;
- reside in Illinois six months before entering the service;
- have at least one full year of active duty in the US Armed Forces; and
- Return to Illinois within six months of discharge from the service.

Applications and additional information are available from field offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, college financial aid offices, or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL60015, phone (708) 948-8550.

ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP. Any enlisted person, lieutenant, or captain, with at least one year service in the Illinois Army/Air National Guard, may participate. The scholarship is available for eight semesters or 12 quarters of full-time or part-time undergraduate study or graduate study at any Illinois state-supported university or community college. Recipients are entitled to payment of tuition and certain fees. Applications and

information on the scholarship may be obtained from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL60015, phone (708) 948-8550.

CHILDREN OF VETERANS. Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Conflict periods, with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled Veterans. Such children shall be entitled to a scholarship at any campus of the University for a term of at least four consecutive years. Details may be obtained from the University Financial Aid Office.

BONUS AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS

WORLD WAR II. A one-time bonus payment equal to \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to Illinois residents who served on active duty from September 16, 1940 to September 3, 1945, and received an honorable discharge. Survivors are entitled to a benefit of \$1,000, if the Veteran's death was service-connected and within the period specified.

KOREAN, VIETNAM, PERSIAN GULF and GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR BONUS. A \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

Korea	June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953
Vietnam	January 1, 1961 - March 28, 1973
Vietnam Frequent Wind	April 29-30, 1975
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 - November 3, 1995
Global War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001 onward

The claimant must also have received one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Vietnam Era, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, GWOT Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, along with having been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service and having received an Honorable Discharge. (Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf or GWOT may apply prior to discharge.)

VIETNAM VETERANS COMPENSATION. If the death of a Veteran of the Vietnam Conflict is the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified, survivors are entitled to a one-time payment of \$1,000.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM COMPENSATION. Surviving dependents or family members of military personnel who died in the Global War on Terrorism may apply for \$3,000 compensation.

POW COMPENSATION. A person on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the United States Government on or after January 1, 1961, who was a resident of Illinois 12 months prior to entry, and who was taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in Southeast Asia, is entitled to \$50 for each month or portion thereof that they were held captive.

SURVIVORS' COMPENSATION. A grant of \$900 is payable for Veterans of World War II who were killed in action. A one-time grant of \$1,000 is payable to survivors of Veterans who were killed in action during Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Minimum residency requirements may apply.

ILLINOIS COURT OF CLAIMS. Application for death benefits is pursuant to Line of Duty Compensation Act. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs assists surviving dependents in filing claims for persons killed in the line of duty (Global War on Terrorism) who may be eligible to receive up to \$329,130.36.

AUTOMOBILES

DISABLED VETERANS LICENSE PLATES. A disabled Veteran who has a service-connected disability incurred during military service and whose disability entitled that Veteran to an automobile grant from the federal government, or who has a total service-connected disability, may be issued one special license without charge.

FREE PARKING FOR DISABLED VETERANS. Vehicles bearing special disabled Veteran registration plates are exempt from any statute or ordinance imposing time limitation on parking in business districts or other facilities.

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES. Upon establishing proof of eligibility to entitlement, the following special registration plates are available without fee: EX-POW and Congressional Medal of Honor Plate for a motor vehicle of the first or second division. Additional special Veteran registration plates are available for vehicles of the first and second division upon establishing proof of eligibility and payment of a registration fee. Applications are processed through the offices of the Secretary of State.

REAL ESTATE

TAX EXEMPTION. This exemption is allowed on the assessed value of real property for which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing for as long as the Veteran, or the spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property.

SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING. Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled Veterans for the purpose of acquiring and remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the Veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

RECORDS AND FILES

PUBLIC RECORDS. Certified copies of public records for Veterans will be furnished by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, on the first request without charge. Additional requests for certified copies of public records or for public records outside of the State might require a fee.

BURIAL BENEFITS

CARTAGE AND ERECTION FEES. When a headstone or marker has been furnished by the Federal government, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall pay the allowable reimbursement amount of \$100 for the setting of such marker within Illinois.

GRAVES REGISTRATION. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall maintain a Roll of Honor of all Veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Every person, firm, or corporation owning or controlling any cemetery or burial place in this State is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each US war Veteran or memorial marker erected for this purpose.

STATE GRANTS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF STATE GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2012

	<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Cartage and Erection of Government Headstones	3615	\$361,500.00	\$183,000.00
BONUS PAYMENTS	1497	\$179,400.00	\$117,600.00
GWOT	1236	123,600.00	
Desert Storm	116	\$11,600.00	
Korean	5	\$500.00	
Vietnam	107	\$10,700.00	
World War II	0	\$0.00	
Vietnam Survivor Compensation	33	\$33,000.00	
State Educational Opportunities	219	\$54,740.00	\$44,250.00
POW/MIA Scholarships	1,441	*	\$0.00
TOTALS	8,269	\$775,040.00	\$344,850.00
* No appropriation for Scholarship Program, but would have paid out \$2,811,127.03.			
Global War on Terrorism (Military Affairs)	20	\$60,000	\$190,000
Global War on Terrorism (OIF/OEF/OND)	1,433	\$143,300	\$356,700
Specially Adapted Housing	4	\$60,000	\$163,000
(Affordable Housing Trust Fund)			

SPECIAL SERVICES

Veterans Employment Confirmations	441
Tax Exemptions Certificates	335
Veterans Discharge Certificates	12,554
Veterans Burial Certificates	1,778
SOS Special License Plate	907
Student ID Cards	218
Phone inquiries	4,202
Correspondence	2,442
Image Documents	118,784
Welcome Home Letters	3,615
File Emails & Faxes	4,289

STATE APPROVING AGENCY

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a completely federally funded program established to approve and audit for compliance college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, apprenticeships and other on-the-job training, license and certification tests, and Small Business Development Centers Entrepreneurship Courses so that educational assistance benefits may be paid to Veterans and other eligible persons under several programs administered by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Due to a change in federal law, the SAA's primary mission changed in FY2012 from supervision and approval to compliance auditing. Since October 1, 2012 the SAA no longer conducts supervisory visits to any facility. Due to the considerable amount of time required for compliance surveys, the volume of approval actions, cancellations, outreach and supervisory visits decreased significantly in the past year.

Beginning in FY2012, SAA is only responsible for the supervision of For Profit Colleges and Universities, stand-alone vocational schools and on the job training programs; SAA no longer has any responsibility for public and not for profit schools or for FAA approved flight schools and registered apprenticeship programs.

The following is a list of entitlement programs for which the Illinois SAA has approval and supervisory responsibilities.

1. Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty (Chapter 30)
2. Montgomery G.I. Bill – Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
3. Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP Chapter 32)
4. Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
5. Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP Chapter 1607)
6. Post 9/11 G.I. Bill – (Chapter 33)

The SAA continued to actively promote the increased usage of all GI Bills. In addition to continued support at the military Transition Assistance Program briefings at Naval Station Great Lakes, SAA staff organized and presented information briefing sessions for Veterans on campuses and career fairs. These meetings addressed issues associated with the new Post 9/11 GI Bill as well as its relationship to the Illinois Veteran's Grant and National Guard Grant. Another outreach activity has been participation in state-wide Veterans' Benefits fairs. SAA has also continued to participate in Illinois National Guard Reintegration events for returning troops which are held throughout the state, as well as Army Reserve integration events which are held in the Chicago area.

The SAA also assists in the implementation of the Illinois Higher Education Veterans Service Act (P.A. 96-0133), passed in August 2009, which requires all public colleges and universities with full time daily attendance of 1,000 to conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for Veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families. The survey must also be available on the school's homepage. Additional provisions require schools to appoint a Veterans Coordinator, provide a resource guide, and complete a fiscal impact survey. Beginning with the Task Force on Service Member and Veterans Education and continuing with coordination between the Illinois State Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community

College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the SAA has been involved in all aspects of the implementation of PA 96-0133. SAA developed training for new Veterans Coordinators in the spring of 2012, and additional training sessions will be offered.

Finally, the SAA supports the Illinois Advisory Council on Military Education held its second annual meeting in FY2012. The purpose of the IL ACME is to promote, support, and deliver meaningful education within all branches of the Armed Services. This group also provides a forum for the discussion of current issues and planning for future programming. The IL ACME meets once or twice a year as needed to review the concerns and problems brought before the Council and make recommendations to the appropriate agency or entity.

ILLINOIS TROOPS TO TEACHERS program assists eligible military personnel transitioning to a new career as public school teachers. The office educates and counsels participants on the requirements for Illinois teacher certification, information on teaching degree programs and alternative routes to certification. Information is also provided on critical teacher needs in the state by discipline and location, and the transfer of certification from state to state, or reciprocity rules and processes. The office also assists participants in locating employment opportunities in K-12 public schools, based on needs and available information.

Pending federal funds, financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. Participants who accept the stipend or bonus must agree to teach for three years in a 'high-needs' district or school in accordance with the authorizing legislation and the maximum award cannot exceed \$10,000. Eligibility determination and payment of these monies is done through the Illinois office to the national Troops to Teachers office.

Beginning in spring of 2011 the Illinois Troops to Teachers office became responsible for the Indiana TTT program as well. Several outreach trips to Indiana have resulted in a renewed awareness of the program at the active duty and National Guard bases in the state. Additional visits to military bases and school conferences have continued to be productive and will be continued in 2013.

Summary of Activity for FY 2012

PROGRAM APPROVALS AND CANCELLATIONS

New, Revised, Other Institutions Approval Actions.....	2,397
Programs and institutions Canceled	102
New, Revised, Other Apprenticeship Approval Actions	242
Programs and Apprenticeships Cancelled.....	25
Programs and On-The-Job Training Approval Actions	435
Programs and On-The-Job Training Programs Cancelled.....	92
New, Revised, Other Flight School Approval Actions	4
Programs and Flight School Programs Cancelled	0
Programs and License and Certification Tests Approval Actions.....	556
Programs and License and Certification Tests Cancelled.....	7
Subtotal – Approval Actions	3,860

PROGRAM VISITATIONS

Supervisory Visits

Institutions of Higher Learning	121
Below College Level Institutions	86
Flight Schools	2
Apprenticeship Programs	37
On-The-Job Training Programs	135

Compliance Survey Visits

.....82
Subtotal – Visits 463

MAIL

Outreach Contacts **166**

STATE APPROVING AGENCY**PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012**

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
STATE APPROVING AGENCY	\$ 1,493.4	\$ 1,493.4	\$ 1,238.3	\$ 255.1
APPROPRIATED	\$ 1,486.1	\$ 1,486.1	\$ 1,231.0	\$ 255.1
STATE APPROVING AGENCY	\$ 1,493.4	\$ 1,493.4	\$ 1,238.3	\$ 255.1
GIEF	\$ 1,236.1	\$ 1,236.1	\$ 1,028.9	\$ 207.2
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 202.1	\$ 47.9
GIEF	\$ 1,236.1	\$ 1,236.1	\$ 1,028.9	\$ 207.2
Personal Services	\$ 622.7	\$ 622.7	\$ 592.8	\$ 29.9
Retirement	\$ 212.9	\$ 212.9	\$ 203.0	\$ 9.9
Social Security	\$ 48.1	\$ 48.1	\$ 44.2	\$ 3.9
Group Insurance	\$ 121.3	\$ 121.3	\$ 101.3	\$ 20.0
Contractual Services	\$ 58.9	\$ 58.9	\$ 38.7	\$ 20.2
Travel	\$ 42.3	\$ 42.3	\$ 19.7	\$ 22.6
Commodities	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.3	\$ 1.0	\$ 2.3
Printing	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 1.6	\$ 10.4
Equipment	\$ 62.0	\$ 62.0	\$ -	\$ 62.0
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6	\$ 1.3	\$ 11.3
Telecommunications	\$ 17.6	\$ 17.6	\$ 11.1	\$ 6.5
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 22.4	\$ 22.4	\$ 14.2	\$ 8.2
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND				
Troops to Teachers Program	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 202.1	\$ 47.9

FIELD OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Many Veterans and their family members are unaware that they qualify for a variety of state and federal benefits. Through its Field Operations Program, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs provides a statewide system of Veteran Service Officers who serve local Veterans and establish networks within the local communities they serve to increase awareness of benefits available.

The service officers counsel and assist Veterans and their dependents in filing claims for benefits through state and federal agencies. This assistance includes applications to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for compensation and pension and for increasing disability benefits. Additionally, Veteran Service Officers (VSO's) assist in applying for admission to the Illinois Veterans Homes and for state and federal education benefits, burial benefits, and health benefits, among others. Questions and correspondence with various agencies are initiated at the request of the members/family.

Veterans' need for services the Department provides has increased significantly due to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and a new influx of returning Veterans. The Department's investment in VSO's accredited by USDVA continues to realize increased federal dollars for Illinois Veterans.

The field is divided into five divisions: Northern, Central, Southern, Metro, and Appeals. The Field Manager maintains oversight of the program through the division supervisors. Case management is further enhanced by the Appeals Branch, which is co-located at the USDVA's Veteran Benefits Regional Office in Chicago; our accredited service officers in this office can coordinate directly with the Veteran's Benefits Administration to appeal decisions on behalf of Veterans.

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Officers conducted 143,575 interviews, in addition to the preparation and submittal of 91,972 state and federal applications for eligible Illinois Veterans, dependents, and survivors. These activities were instrumental in establishment of initial claims and continued receipt of federal monies paid to Veterans in Illinois, resulting in \$33,197,865.46 in retroactive federal benefits monies and \$37,260,578.41 annually being received by Veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

Service to Veterans continued to improve through outreach to the Illinois Veteran community. In partnership with local community sponsors, VSO's hosted 8 "Helping Our Hometown Heroes" programs throughout the state to increase awareness and educate Veterans on State and Federal benefits. VSO's continue to place emphasis on assisting Veterans with enrollment in the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (IWAP), Veterans Care Program, Home Loan programs and Scholarship programs.

Veterans Service Officers continue to avail themselves to the survivors and families of Illinois' fallen Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom service members. The Services Officers are available to assist in filing claims under the Line of Duty Compensation Act from the Illinois Court of Claims.

Free brochures describing Veterans' benefits for education, job training, rehabilitation, VA home loans, and health programs are available at the Veterans' Service Offices or through the Central Office in Springfield.

The Military Service Pass Program is another program for Veterans throughout the Chicago Transit Authority area. Active duty personnel and service-connected Veterans of more than 10 percent can obtain a free transit pass to ride in the catchment area. In this last fiscal year, IDVA assisted in issuing 1,790 passes to eligible Veterans.

Field Division Statistical Annual Report FY12

Field Totals	Appeals	Central	Metro	North	South	Total
Pension	9	285	107	125	193	719
Widows Pension	7	232	102	124	175	640
Veterans Compensation	160	2438	757	1478	1327	6160
Widows DIC	8	184	47	84	108	431
Parents DIC	1	11	3		2	17
Appeals	172	180	18	132	101	603
EVR	1	173	31	39	189	433
Child Exclusion	1	5	3	3	2	14
Hospital	13	1902	236	1232	564	3947
ChampVA	1	172	23	95	136	427
Education	27	247	180	200	99	753
Loans	22	154	116	98	65	455
Insurance	1	159	38	59	101	358
POA	123	1942	749	1185	1318	5317
Burial Benefits	5	424	91	250	492	1262
Gov Markers		652	44	345	901	1942
Armed Forces		446	124	127	175	872
Discharges/Medals	868	788	969	807	447	3879
Supplemental Forms	131	8118	2336	5637	4694	20916
USDVA Total	1580	185123	5974	12020	12089	216786
503's Living/Deceased	7	589	291	586	960	2433
Illinois Warrior Asst Program	1	1		1	4	7
War Bonus Applications	100	162	131	178	81	652
VetCare	29	4	4	7	13	57
Illinois Veterans Grant	41	167	110	120	45	483
State Education	12	46	24	22	19	123
MIA/POW	16	51	34	33	29	163
FSH/HUNT	90	610	304	463	683	2150
Camp Permits	45	85	34	44	90	298
Veterans Home Applications	9	95	12	21	15	152
ID Cards	75	951	449	431	679	2585
3WVGR/4WVGR	27	578	432	351	713	2101
Special Events	2	62	91	35	69	259
IDVA 200	626	8180	4315	6301	6484	25906
Supplemental Forms	251	1622	861	253	510	3497
IDVA Total	1331	13203	7092	8846	10394	40866
Grand Total	2911	31715	13066	20866	22483	91041
Interviews Veterans	2625	178832	7085	10050	12331	210923
Interviews Dependents	132	4122	1256	1944	3168	10622
Phone interviews	3648	28213	20300	13205	17823	83189
VetCare phone Interviews	739	23	10	27	16	815

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(Italics indicate itinerant or part-time office locations.)

(indicates the itinerant or part-time office closed as of Sept. 15, 2011)*

Adams	Quincy Veterans' Home 1707 N 12 th St Quincy, IL62301	Cook #1	James R. Thompson Ctr 100 W Randolph, Suite 5-570 Chicago, IL60601-3219
Alexander	<i>Senior Citizens Center/IETC 22nd & Poplar St Cairo, IL 62914</i>	Cook #2	<i>Gen Jones Armory 5200 S Cottage Grove Ave. Room 101-103 North Chicago, IL 60615-3603</i>
Bond	<i>Bond County Senior Center 305 S. 3rd. Street Greenville, IL 62246</i>	Cook #3	IDVA - National Guard Armory 1551 N Kedzie Ave Chicago, IL60615
Bureau	<i>City Hall 2 S. Main Street Princeton, IL 61356</i>	Cook #4	IDVA 1010 Dixie Highway, Suite 101 Chicago Heights, IL60411-2665
*Carroll	<i>Savanna VFW 409 Main Savanna, IL 61074</i>	Cook #5	IDVA - ChicagoVA Regional Off 2122 W. Taylor, Suite 127 Chicago, IL60612
*Cass	<i>Illinois National Guard Armory Readiness Center 180 Wall Street Beardstown, IL 62618</i>	Cook #6	IDVA - IDES 16845 S. Halsted Street Harvey, IL 60426
Champaign	Illinois National Guard 600 E. University Ave Urbana, IL 61802	Cook #7	IDVA - M&B Bank Building 7222 W. Cermak Road, Suite 705 North Riverside, IL 60546
Christian	IDVA 1100 Cheney Street Taylorville, IL62568-2225	Cook #9	Palatine Township 721 S Quentin Rd., Ste. 102 Palatine, IL60067
Clinton	<i>Clinton County Senior Center 630 8th Street Carlyle, IL62231</i>	Cook #10	Village of Orland Park 14700 Ravina Ave... Orland Park, IL 60462
Coles	DHS Family Community Ctr 119 W. State Street Charleston, IL62231	Cook #11	Frisbie Senior Center 52 E. Northwest Highway Des Plaines, IL 60016
Cook	<i>Schaumburg Township 1 Illinois Blvd Hoffman Estates, IL 60169</i>	Crawford	<i>VFW Post 812 E. Main St. Robinson, IL62454</i>
Cook	<i>Evanston Vet Center 565 Howard Street Evanston, IL 60202</i>	DuPage #1	IDVA 421 County Farm Road Room 2-600A Wheaton, IL 60187

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(Italics indicate itinerant or part-time office locations.)

(indicates the itinerant or part-time office closed as of Sept. 15, 2011)*

(Continued)

DuPage #2	IDES Office 837 S. Westmore Myers Rd. Lombard, IL 60418	Jasper	<i>Jasper Co. Courthouse 204 W. Washington St, Suite 2 Newton, IL 62448</i>
Edgar	<i>Edger County Farm Ser. 11759 IL Highway 1 Paris, IL61944</i>	Jefferson	<i>IDVA 4105 N. Water Pl, Rm. #112 Mt Vernon, IL 62864</i>
Effingham	County Building 101 N 4 th St, Room 203 Effingham, IL 62401	*JoDaviess	<i>West Galena Township Bldg 607 Gear St Galena, IL 61036</i>
*Ford	<i>County Courthouse 200 W. State Street Paxton, IL60957</i>	Kane #1	Elgin National Guard Armory 254 Raymond Street Elgin, IL60120
Franklin	City Hall 500 W Main St PO Box 640 Benton, IL62812	Kane #2	IDVA DuPage County Vet Center 750 Shoreline Dr, Suite 150 Aurora, IL 60504
Fulton	<i>American Legion Post #1 260 West Lincoln Avenue Lewistown, IL61542</i>	Kane	Elgin Community College 1700 Spartan Dr. SRC Bldg Room 103E Elgin, Illinois 60123
*Grundy	<i>County Admin Bldg. 1320 Union St., Rm. C9 Morris, IL 60450-2426</i>	Kankakee	Manteno Veterans' Home #1 Veterans' Drive Manteno, IL60950
Hancock	<i>County Courthouse Lower Level West PO Box 39 Carthage, IL62321</i>	Knox	IDVA 362 N. Linwood Rd. Galesburg, IL61401
Henry	IDVA 111 North East Street Kewanee, IL61443	Lake	North ChicagoVA Med Ctr 3001 Green Bay Road Bldg 135, Rooms 156 & 157 North Chicago, IL60064
Jackson	IDVA 223 S. 13 th Street Murphysboro, IL 62966	LaSalle	LaSalle Veterans Home 1015 O'Connor Ave. LaSalle, IL 61301
Jackson	Southern IL University Woody Hall Rm. B252 900 S. Norman Street Carbondale, IL 62901	Lawrence	City Of Lawrenceville 700 E. Main Street Lawrenceville, IL 62439

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(Italics indicate itinerant or part-time office locations.)

(indicates the itinerant or part-time office closed as of Sept. 15, 2011)*

(Continued)

Livingston	National Guard Armory 825 W Reynolds Room 110 Pontiac, IL61764-2341	Marion	Salem Professional Bldg 600 E Main St Suite 6 Salem, IL62881
Logan	<i>Oasis Senior Center 501 Pulaski St Lincoln, IL62656</i>	Massac	<i>County Courthouse P.O. Box 429 Metropolis, IL62960</i>
Macon	IDVA 707 E. Wood Street Decatur, IL 62526	McDonough	National Guard Armory 135 W Grant St Room 57 Macomb, IL61455-2862
Macon	<i>Decatur VA Community Clinic 3035 E. Mound Rd. Decatur, IL 62626</i>	Mc Donough	Western IL University 333 N. Ward Street Macomb, IL 61455
Macoupin	West Central Development Center IL Job Service 116 S. Plumb Street Carlinville, IL 62626	McHenry	IDVA Woodstock Armory 1301 Sunset Ridge Road Woodstock, IL60098-2106
Madison	IDVA 606 W. St. Louis Ave, Suite 1 East Alton, IL 62024	McLean	National Guard Armory 1616 S Main St, Rm 15 & 16 Bloomington, IL61701
Madison	<i>Meridian Village Stewardship Office 27 Auerbach Place Glen Carbon, IL 62034</i>	Mercer	<i>County Courthouse Aledo, IL61231</i>
Marion	Salem Professional Bldg 600 E Main St Suite 6 Salem, IL62881	Montgomery	<i>IDES Field Office 11006 Airport Trail Rd. Litchfield, IL62056</i>
*Ogle #1	<i>Ogle County Senior Center 810 S. 10th Street Oregon, IL 61061</i>	Morgan	IDVA 45 S. Central Park Jacksonville, IL62650
*Ogle #2	<i>VFW Post 3878 318 Fourth Ave Rochelle, IL61068</i>	Peoria	<i>Peoria VA Clinic 7717 N. Orange Prairie Rd. Peoria, IL 61615</i>
Peoria	IDVA 401 Main, Suite 650 Peoria, IL61602	Pike	<i>American Legion 1302 West Washington Pittsfield, IL62363</i>

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(Italics indicate itinerant or part-time office locations.)

(indicates the itinerant or part-time office closed as of Sept. 15, 2011)*

(Continued)

Randolph	<i>City Hall 1330 Swanwick Chester, IL62233</i>	Union	<i>Anna Veterans Home 792 N Main Anna, IL62906</i>
Richland	<i>Senior Citizens Center 308 Main Street Olney, IL62450</i>	Vermilion	<i>IDVA Workforce Development Center 407 N. Franklin, Suite B Danville, IL61832</i>
Rock Island	<i>County Building 1504 3rd Avenue Rock Island, IL61201</i>	Warren	<i>County Courthouse Monmouth, IL61462</i>
St Clair #1	<i>IDVA 4519 W. Main St. Belleville, IL 62226</i>	Wayne	<i>County Courthouse Fairfield, IL 62837</i>
St Clair #2	<i>IDVA 10 Collinsville Ave E St Louis, IL62201</i>	White	<i>County Courthouse Carmi, IL 62821</i>
Saline	<i>IDVA 713A E Church St Harrisburg, IL62946</i>	Whiteside	<i>IL National Guard Armory 716 6th Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071</i>
Sangamon	<i>IDVA 833 S Spring St PO Box 19432 Springfield, IL62794</i>	Will	<i>National Guard Armory 2900 West Jefferson Street Joliet, IL 60435-5287</i>
Schuyler	<i>Senior Center 250 North Monroe Rushville, IL62681</i>		
*Shelby	<i>Shelbyville Township Office 212 E. South 1st St. Shelbyville, IL 62565</i>		
Stephenson	<i>IDVA 1631 S. Galena Ave Freeport, IL61032</i>		

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(Italics indicate itinerant or part-time office locations.)

(indicates the itinerant or part-time office closed as of Sept. 15, 2011)*

(Continued)

Williamson State Reg. Office Bldg
2309 W Main St Suite 122
Marion, IL 62959

Winnebago *Rockford VA Outpatient Clinic*
4940E. State St, Suite B-107
Rockford, IL 61108

Winnebago Machesney Park Armory
10451 North 2nd Street, Room 158
Machesney Park, IL 61115

FIELD SERVICES
PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
FIELD SERVICES	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 4,848.8	\$ 326.0
APPROPRIATED	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 4,848.8	\$ 326.0
 FIELD SERVICES	 \$ 5,174.8	 \$ 5,174.8	 \$ 4,848.8	 \$ 326.0
GRF	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 5,174.8	\$ 4,848.8	\$ 326.0
 Operations	 \$ 5,174.8	 \$ 5,174.8	 \$ 4,848.8	 \$ 393.0
Personal Services	\$ 4,362.4	\$ 4,362.4	\$ 4,129.4	\$ 233.0
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 329.1	\$ 329.1	\$ 305.8	\$ 23.3
Contractual Services	\$ 236.0	\$ 236.0	\$ 217.1	\$ 18.9
Travel	\$ 85.0	\$ 85.0	\$ 54.8	\$ 30.2
Commodities	\$ 7.9	\$ 7.9	\$ 7.2	\$ 0.7
Printing	\$ 6.9	\$ 6.9	\$ 5.8	\$ 1.1
Equipment	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.5	\$ -	\$ 0.5
Electronic Data Processing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Telecommunications	\$ 114.1	\$ 114.1	\$ 104.0	\$ 10.1
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 32.9	\$ 32.9	\$ 24.7	\$ 8.2

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOMES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Illinois Veterans' Home is fully staffed with caring and dedicated professionals who provide quality long-term care and services to each resident. Volunteers from local community and Veterans' organizations provide many additional supporting services and activities.

Each Home is licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health and is certified by and works closely with its US Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center of jurisdiction and the local healthcare communities to ensure residents receive the highest quality care. Emphasis is given to ensuring that each resident experiences the highest possible quality of life.

ELIGIBILITY

Any honorably discharged Veteran is entitled to admission if he or she: (1) has served in the US Armed Forces at least one day during a period recognized by the USDVA as a war period; or (2) has served and was honorably discharged or retired for a service-connected disability or injury, or (3) has served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for 24 months of continuous service or more and enlisted after September 7, 1980 or (4) has served as a Reservist or National Guard member, and the service included being called to Federal Active Duty (excluding service for ADT only) and completed the term; or (5) has been discharged for reasons of hardship or released from active duty due to a reduction in the U.S. Armed Forces before the completion of the required period of service; and (6) entered the service as a resident of Illinois or has been a resident of Illinois for one year immediately preceding the date of application for admission; and (7) is disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise, and because of disability is incapable of earning a living. Peacetime Veterans with one year of honorable military services may also be eligible for admission; other qualifying conditions, as required, must be met.

A spouse, or surviving spouse, may also qualify for admission to the Quincy Veterans' Home.

DOMICILIARY CARE

National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United States who have completed 20 years of satisfactory service and are eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits are eligible for Domiciliary Care only.

COSTS OF CARE

Residents pay a monthly maintenance fee, assessed based on an individual's income (not assets). The ability-to-pay-plan has a maximum charge and covers room, food (including special diets and supplements), medication, medical care, recreation and activities, and any special therapy or treatment prescribed by the attending physician.

Some costs of care not covered include, but may not be limited to, eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prostheses, and special wheelchairs or mechanical devices. Such costs must be paid directly to the providers by the resident or responsible surrogate.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS

Each Home is surveyed annually by its US Department of Veterans Affairs medical center of jurisdiction in areas of resident care, quality and safety. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Public Health annually inspects each home for state licensure.

ADMISSION PRIORITIES

A candidate who has served during a time of conflict has preference over all other qualifying candidates

Admission to an Illinois Veterans' Home, for a Veteran certified to be eligible, is based upon:

- A. The ability of the Home to provide adequate and appropriate care and services required by the Veteran's medical diagnoses and assessed needs.
- B. An available bed in the category required by the Veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.

Veterans whose applications are accepted, but who cannot be immediately admitted to the facility, are placed on the facility waiting list and are prioritized on a "first come-first served" basis. Absolutely no exceptions are permitted to the policy.

ACTIVITIES

The Homes provide a full range of activities for residents, both inside and outside of the facility. Every member is encouraged to participate in as many of the activities and programs as possible. Some examples of activities may include card games, bingo parties, cooking and crafts, religious services, exercise and fitness, entertainment, and "outside" activities.

Representatives of national, state and local Veterans' organizations frequently visit in the Homes, and Resident Advisory Boards and Veterans Advisory Council's at each home work to assure that quality standards are maintained and that the special needs of our Veterans are met at all times.



ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

In 1886, the 34th Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to establish a soldiers' and sailors' home for disabled Illinois Veterans of the Mexican and Civil Wars. On June 1, 1886, Governor Richard Oglesby selected Quincy as the site of the new home. On October 19 the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailor's Home was formally dedicated, and in June 1973 the name was changed to the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy. IVH-Quincy recently celebrated 125 years of service to Illinois Veterans.

The Home is the largest and oldest Veterans' Home of the four in Illinois and one of the larger and older Veterans' homes in the country. The peak of membership was reached in 1909, when there were 1,654 members. Today, nearly 400 residents call the facility home. These Veterans represent most of the 102 counties in Illinois. The Home at Quincy provides domiciliary and skilled nursing care to Illinois Veterans, their spouses and widows/widowers.

The Home offers levels of healthcare ranging from domiciliary to skilled nursing care with two units for Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Full-time physicians and a Nurse Practitioner as well as Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Veteran Nursing Assistants-Certified (CNAs) provide 24-hour a day, 7-days a week care. In addition to the extensive medical department, the Home has social services, activities, accounting, dietary, laundry, housekeeping, business, and security and maintenance departments. A multi-therapy center was constructed in 1996. The latest addition to the campus is the 106-bed Fifer Building, which started housing members in 2008.

The Home has often been labeled as "the city within the city" because of its size and unique setting. The facility sits upon 210 beautiful acres on the northern edge of Quincy and comprises more than 40 buildings totaling slightly less than 1 million gross square feet. The campus amenities include a post office, bank, assembly hall, guest house, snack bar, chapel, cemetery, fishing lake, animal park, museum, and several historic sites. The Home also has its own newsletter publication and television station. Approximately five miles of streets serve the grounds.

The aging campus of the Home necessitates that many capital projects be addressed by the Capital Development Board. Construction of a five-bay maintenance garage was completed in January 2011 using State and ARRA funds. Funding was released to replace the chiller and cooling towers servicing Kent, Elmore, Schapers and Physical Therapy Buildings and is scheduled to be completed in FY2013. Funding was also released to renovate the powerhouse and repair the unofficial landmark brick chimney; this project is scheduled to be complete in early FY2013.

An architect and engineering firm was selected by interview for design of renovations to Kent, Elmore and Schapers buildings. The first phase of this project will renovate Kent to allow compliance with USDVA's mandate to close Fletcher building and will install fire sprinklers in Elmore & Schapers buildings to meet life safety mandates. These projects are ongoing and awaiting release of additional funds from CDB.

The United State Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Iowa City is the hospital of jurisdiction for the Quincy Home.

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY
PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
QUINCY VETERANS' HOME	\$ 45,013.5	\$ 45,013.5	\$ 42,368.9	\$ 2,644.6
APPROPRIATED	\$ 45,013.5	\$ 45,013.5	\$ 42,368.9	\$ 2,644.6
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 14.8	\$ 14.8	\$ 14.8	\$ -
 QUINCY VETERANS' HOME	 \$ 45,013.5	 \$ 45,013.5	 \$ 42,368.9	 \$ 2,644.6
GRF	\$ 23,617.3	\$ 23,617.3	\$ 23,560.5	\$ 56.8
QVHF	\$ 21,396.2	\$ 21,396.2	\$ 18,808.4	\$ 5,587.8
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 14.8	\$ 14.8	\$ 14.8	\$ -
 Operations	 \$ 23,617.3	 \$ 23,617.3	 \$ 23,560.5	 \$ 56.8
Personal Services	\$ 21,889.7	\$ 21,889.7	\$ 21,838.4	\$ 51.3
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 1,608.3	\$ 1,608.3	\$ 1,604.3	\$ 4.0
Contractual Services	\$ 119.2	\$ 119.2	\$ 117.8	\$ 1.4
Commodities	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ -	\$ 0.0
 QVHF	 \$ 21,396.2	 \$ 21,396.2	 \$ 18,808.4	 \$ 2,587.8
Operations	\$ 21,396.2	\$ 21,396.2	\$ 18,808.4	\$ 2,587.8
Personal Services	\$ 8,979.6	\$ 8,979.6	\$ 7,828.4	\$ 1,151.2
Members Compensation	\$ 30.0	\$ 30.0	\$ 27.7	\$ 2.3
Retirement	\$ 3,070.1	\$ 3,070.1	\$ 2,682.6	\$ 387.5
Social Security	\$ 687.0	\$ 687.0	\$ 580.2	\$ 106.8
Contractual Services	\$ 3,147.2	\$ 3,147.2	\$ 2,704.1	\$ 443.1
Travel	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 3.4	\$ 2.6
Commodities	\$ 4,795.2	\$ 4,795.2	\$ 4,480.3	\$ 314.9
Printing	\$ 23.7	\$ 23.7	\$ 18.7	\$ 5.0
Equipment	\$ 128.5	\$ 128.5	\$ 54.9	\$ 73.6
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 67.8	\$ 67.8	\$ 57.7	\$ 10.1
Telecommunications	\$ 81.3	\$ 81.3	\$ 78.2	\$ 3.1
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 112.0	\$ 112.0	\$ 76.2	\$ 35.8
Permanent Improvements	\$ 20.0	\$ 20.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 14.0
Refunds	\$ 247.8	\$ 247.8	\$ 210.0	\$ 37.8
 LIBRARY GRANT FUND	 \$ 14.8	 \$ 14.8	 \$ 14.8	 \$ -

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ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno, which admitted its first resident April 16, 1986, recently celebrated its 25th year of service to Illinois Veterans. Located on a 122-acre campus 60 miles south of Chicago, it serves a large population of Veterans in northern Illinois. This modern facility has five nursing care units and two ancillary buildings to provide skilled care to honorably discharged Veterans. The Home provides a comfortable "homelike" atmosphere in a peaceful rural setting and has a post office, library, bank, beauty/barber shop, and commissary to serve up to 340 residents.

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno has a complete in-house medical staff of Physicians, Nurses, Physical and Respiratory Therapists, and Radiology Technicians to provide the full range of professional care for Veterans. Residents who may require hospital services such as surgery, advanced diagnostic workups, or other specialized treatments receive these at the US Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Hines, Illinois, while two private hospitals in Kankakee also provide acute and emergency care.

Social services and activities are provided to assure high quality of life standards are maintained for each resident. The Activities and Volunteer Services Departments provide the members social and recreational activities. Skilled, professional staff members are assisted by a large contingent of dedicated, skilled volunteers from Veterans and civic organizations. Also, chaplains conduct weekly Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious services.

No Capital Development Board projects are underway at IVH-Manteno.

The United State Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Edward Hines Jr. Hospital is the hospital of jurisdiction for the Manteno Home.



PRINCE HOMELESS AND DISABLED PROGRAM

The Prince Homeless and Disabled Program is located on the grounds of the Manteno Veterans Home but is a separate program with a dedicated staff and program administrator. The Prince Program began in 2008 to provide permanent supportive housing and supportive rehabilitative services for disabled, homeless Illinois Veterans. The Prince Home staff provides each resident with the skills needed for successful independent living. The Home provides a structured, safe and caring environment in which a sense of dignity, belonging and achievement enhance the opportunity to succeed. It is each resident's responsibility to take advantage of these resources.

The Prince Home is not a shelter; it is home. To reside in the Prince Home, residents must participate in the entire scope of the curriculum, programs and activities.

Using HUD and donated funds which were transferred to the Capital Development Board, CDB managed the renovation of the north wing of the Prince Home in 2007 to provide an administrative suite, allowing the Prince program to operate at its full capacity of 15 residents.



ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO
PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
MANTENO VETERANS' HOME	\$ 35,992.8	\$ 35,992.8	\$ 30,591.1	\$ 5,401.7
APPROPRIATED	\$ 35,978.3	\$ 35,978.3	\$ 30,576.6	\$ 5,401.7
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ -
MANTENO VETERANS' HOME	\$ 35,992.8	\$ 35,992.8	\$ 30,591.1	\$ 5,401.7
GRF	\$ 16,862.8	\$ 16,862.8	\$ 16,807.0	\$ 55.8
MVHF	\$ 18,995.5	\$ 18,995.5	\$ 13,651.6	\$ 5,343.9
IHAT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND	\$ 120.0	\$ 120.0	\$ 118.0	\$ 2.0
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ -
Operations	\$ 16,862.8	\$ 16,862.8	\$ 16,807.0	\$ 55.8
Personal Services	\$ 15,088.8	\$ 15,088.8	\$ 15,088.2	\$ 0.6
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 1,105.3	\$ 1,105.3	\$ 1,105.2	\$ 0.1
Contractual Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commodities	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ 668.5	\$ 668.5	\$ 613.6	\$ 54.9
MVHF				
Operations	\$ 18,995.5	\$ 18,995.5	\$ 13,651.6	\$ 5,343.9
Personal Services	\$ 6,558.0	\$ 6,558.0	\$ 4,316.7	\$ 2,241.3
Members Compensation	\$ 20.0	\$ 20.0	\$ 17.0	\$ 3.0
Retirement	\$ 2,242.1	\$ 2,242.1	\$ 1,476.1	\$ 766.0
Social Security	\$ 501.7	\$ 501.7	\$ 316.9	\$ 184.8
Contractual Services	\$ 6,319.0	\$ 6,319.0	\$ 5,305.8	\$ 1,013.2
Travel	\$ 8.5	\$ 8.5	\$ 4.7	\$ 3.8
Commodities	\$ 1,662.3	\$ 1,662.3	\$ 1,489.6	\$ 172.7
Printing	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.0	\$ 13.7	\$ 8.3
Equipment	\$ 476.0	\$ 476.0	\$ 278.7	\$ 197.3
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 50.8	\$ 50.8	\$ 47.8	\$ 3.0
Telecommunications	\$ 94.6	\$ 94.6	\$ 90.5	\$ 4.1
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 91.5	\$ 91.5	\$ 88.2	\$ 3.3
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 5.2	\$ 44.8
Permanent Improvements	\$ 63.0	\$ 63.0	\$ 47.1	\$ 15.9
Refunds	\$ 836.0	\$ 836.0	\$ 153.6	\$ 682.4
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND				
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ 120.0	\$ 120.0	\$ 118.0	\$ 2.0
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ 14.5	\$ -
ILLINOIS HOUSING AUTHORITY TRUST FUND				
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE

The Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle opened on December 12, 1990 with a mission to provide skilled nursing care for 120 Veterans, including 18 special needs beds for Veterans suffering from Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

In 2005, the General Assembly appropriated funding to construct an 80-bed addition to the LaSalle facility, boosting capacity to provide skilled nursing care to 160 Veterans and special needs care to 40 Veterans with varying dementia. Veterans moved into the new rooms in February 2009, and minor improvements were made to the rooms in the Home's original wings using Department assets.

The Illinois Veterans' Home provides comprehensive, quality, skilled nursing care to the Veterans who live there, with the goal to promote the highest possible functioning and quality of life for each individual member. A full range of rehabilitation services are provided to assist Veterans in meeting that goal. The LaSalle Home has a complete staff of medical, nursing, social service, and activity personnel. Ancillary services such as physical, speech and occupational therapies are available at the Home through contractual arrangements with specialists in the community.

The United State Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Edward Hines Jr. Hospital is the hospital of jurisdiction for the LaSalle Home.



ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE
PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
LASALLE VETERANS' HOME	\$ 18,523.7	\$ 18,523.7	\$ 16,555.0	\$ 1,968.7
APPROPRIATED	\$ 18,509.9	\$ 18,509.9	\$ 16,541.2	\$ 1,968.7
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 13.8	\$ 13.8	\$ 13.8	\$ -
 LASALLE VETERANS' HOME	 \$ 18,523.7	 \$ 18,523.7	 \$ 16,555.0	 \$ 1,968.7
GRF	\$ 8,945.3	\$ 8,945.3	\$ 8,930.3	\$ 15.0
LVHF	\$ 9,564.6	\$ 9,564.6	\$ 7,610.9	\$ 1,953.7
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 13.8	\$ 13.8	\$ 13.8	\$ -
 Operations	 \$ 8,945.3	 \$ 8,945.3	 \$ 8,930.3	 \$ 15.0
Personal Services	\$ 8,330.3	\$ 8,330.3	\$ 8,316.7	\$ 13.6
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 614.7	\$ 614.7	\$ 613.6	\$ 1.1
Contractual Services	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -
Commodities	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -
Lump Sum for Addition of Beds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
 LVHF	 \$ 9,564.6	 \$ 9,564.6	 \$ 7,610.9	 \$ 1,953.7
Operations	\$ 9,564.6	\$ 9,564.6	\$ 7,610.9	\$ 1,953.7
Personal Services	\$ 3,988.0	\$ 3,988.0	\$ 3,031.9	\$ 956.1
Retirement	\$ 1,363.5	\$ 1,363.5	\$ 1,037.0	\$ 326.5
Social Security	\$ 305.1	\$ 305.1	\$ 224.7	\$ 80.4
Contractual Services	\$ 2,318.3	\$ 2,318.3	\$ 2,031.0	\$ 287.3
Travel	\$ 8.0	\$ 8.0	\$ 2.6	\$ 5.4
Commodities	\$ 1,151.6	\$ 1,151.6	\$ 1,058.1	\$ 93.5
Printing	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 5.4	\$ 0.6
Equipment	\$ 77.6	\$ 77.6	\$ 56.6	\$ 21.0
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 25.6	\$ 25.6	\$ 23.6	\$ 2.0
Telecommunications	\$ 32.7	\$ 32.7	\$ 32.7	\$ -
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 24.7	\$ 24.7	\$ 24.4	\$ 0.3
Lump Sum for Addition of Beds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permanent Improvements	\$ 25.0	\$ 25.0	\$ 1.7	\$ 23.3
Refunds	\$ 238.5	\$ 238.5	\$ 81.2	\$ 157.3
 LIBRARY GRANT FUND	 \$ 13.8	 \$ 13.8	 \$ 13.8	 \$ -

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna in Union County is a 50-bed skilled care nursing facility with six adjoining domiciliary units for 12 Veterans. Situated on a 16.1-acre site, the Home provides long-term medical and skilled nursing care services, rehabilitative and social services, and a complete quality of life program for residents.

Numerous activities of interest to residents are also provided with the strong support and assistance of dedicated volunteers from Veterans' organizations and the community. In addition, IVH-Anna members enjoy the serenity and peacefulness of a Sensory Garden designed specifically for residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia.

The Home was managed and operated by healthcare provider organizations under contract with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs from its opening on August 29, 1994, until legislation enacted during the 93rd General Assembly directed the Department to assume operation of the Home effective April 1, 2004.

A major Capital Development Project to replace the elopement prevention system was begun during FY 2012 and is scheduled to be completed in FY 2013. Also this year, the Capital Development Board approved an emergency project to replace the roof in our facility.

An architect and engineer firm was selected by interview to provide plan and begin designs for the construction of a 40-50 bed addition to the Anna Home. Construction cost estimate for the addition is approximately \$17,000,000. However, the Capital Projects bill containing the funding request has not yet passed.

The United State Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Marion is the hospital of jurisdiction for the Anna Home.



ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA
PERIOD: 7/01/2011 THROUGH 6/30/2012

	Original appropriation	Unreserved appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
ANNA VETERANS' HOME	\$ 5,864.9	\$ 5,864.9	\$ 5,763.7	\$ 101.2
APPROPRIATED	\$ 5,860.8	\$ 5,860.8	\$ 5,759.6	\$ 101.2
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 4.1	\$ 4.1	\$ 4.1	\$ -
 ANNA VETERANS' HOME	 \$ 5,864.9	 \$ 5,864.9	 \$ 5,763.7	 \$ 101.2
GRF	\$ 3,213.2	\$ 3,213.2	\$ 3,210.8	\$ 2.4
AVHF	\$ 2,647.6	\$ 2,647.6	\$ 2,548.8	\$ 98.8
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 4.1	\$ 4.1	\$ 4.1	\$ -
 Operations	 \$ 3,213.2	 \$ 3,213.2	 \$ 3,210.8	 \$ 2.4
Personal Services	\$ 2,936.7	\$ 2,936.7	\$ 2,936.5	\$ 0.2
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 219.4	\$ 219.4	\$ 218.4	\$ 1.0
Contractual Services	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ -
Commodities	\$ 47.1	\$ 47.1	\$ 45.9	\$ 1.2
Electronic Data Processing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
 AVHF	 	 	 	
Operations	\$ 2,647.6	\$ 2,647.6	\$ 2,548.8	\$ 98.8
Personal Services	\$ 1,091.8	\$ 1,091.8	\$ 1,032.6	\$ 59.2
Retirement	\$ 373.3	\$ 373.3	\$ 356.5	\$ 16.8
Social Security	\$ 83.5	\$ 83.5	\$ 77.3	\$ 6.2
Contractual Services	\$ 689.5	\$ 689.5	\$ 685.3	\$ 4.2
Travel	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 5.5	\$ 0.5
Commodities	\$ 301.0	\$ 301.0	\$ 297.5	\$ 3.5
Printing	\$ 4.0	\$ 4.0	\$ 2.8	\$ 1.2
Equipment	\$ 12.3	\$ 12.3	\$ 10.1	\$ 2.2
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 12.4	\$ 12.4	\$ 11.0	\$ 1.4
Telecommunications	\$ 14.4	\$ 14.4	\$ 13.0	\$ 1.4
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 9.7	\$ 9.7	\$ 8.6	\$ 1.1
Permanent Improvements	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 9.6	\$ 0.4
Refunds	\$ 39.7	\$ 39.7	\$ 39.0	\$ 0.7
 LIBRARY GRANT FUND	 \$ 4.1	 \$ 4.1	 \$ 4.1	 \$ -

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Department has implemented a broad, comprehensive full-time program of internal auditing in accordance with the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA)(30 ILCS 10/2001) and professional auditing standards. Accordingly, the internal audit function is authorized to have full, free, and unrestricted access to all of the Department's records, personnel, property, facilities, and information systems.

The Department's internal audit function consists of a single Chief Internal Auditor. The Chief Internal Auditor was appointed to a 5-year term beginning on April 18, 2011 and reports directly to the Department's Director, as required by FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2002).

The activities of the internal audit function include:

- Development and maintenance of detailed internal audit procedures to promote compliance with FCIAA and professional standards;
- Development and maintenance of an internal audit charter in accordance with professional internal auditing standards;
- Formal certifications that the internal audit is free from impairment or the perception of impairment;
- Presentation and execution of two-year audit plans, in compliance with FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1));
- Assurance and consulting services; and,
- Coordination of State and federal external audits and reviews.

Further, as required by FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1)), the Chief Internal Auditor submits annually, by September 30, a report detailing how the audit plan for preceding fiscal year was carried out, the significant findings, and the extent to which recommended changes were implemented.

VETERANS CASH LOTTERY GRANT

Veterans Cash is the Illinois Lottery's specialty ticket providing 100 percent of net proceeds to support Illinois Veterans. Proceeds from the sale of this ticket are deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund, an interest bearing account in the State Treasury. The Illinois General Assembly appropriates this money solely to IDVA, which then awards grants through an appointed committee to organizations which address Veterans' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, homelessness, health insurance costs, long term care and disability benefits. Non-profit and governmental entities are encouraged to apply for funding in any of the five categories.

Since February 2006, the Grant Committee has authorized 198 grants totaling \$10,325,146. In FY 2012, the committee awarded 28 grants totaling \$1,141,883.

The Grant Committee consists of three voting members who advise the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs on approval of the grant applications. The voting members at the quarterly meetings in FY 2012 were: Amy Amizich from IDVA, LTC Curt Ashby from the Illinois National Guard, and Dr. Jean Douglas from the Oak Park Vet Center.

As required by statute, the Grant Committee meets quarterly. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Committee met on July 26 and October 13, 2011, as well as January 6 and April 19, 2012. In FY 2012, members of the Grant Committee visited more than 20 grant recipient and grant applicant sites to better understand recipients' operations, inspect facilities, and observe programs.

Category	FY12	% of	Total	
	Number of Grants	Number of Grants	Amount Approved	% of Grants Approved
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	8	28.6%	\$ 208,442	18.3%
Veteran Disability Benefits	3	10.7%	\$ 319,783	28.0%
Health Insurance Costs	3	10.7%	\$ 37,000	3.2%
Veteran Long-term care	4	14.3%	\$ 172,000	15.1%
Veterans Homelessness	10	35.7%	\$ 404,658	35.4%
Total	28	100.0%	\$ 1,141,883	100.0%

ILLINOIS WARRIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In January 2008, Illinois became the first state in the nation to launch a Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder program for returning Veterans. The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program offers a 24-hour, toll-free helpline at 1-866-554-IWAP (4927), which is staffed by health care professionals to assist and advise Veterans and family members regarding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These professionals provide Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) screening to all interested Illinois Veterans, as well as provide referrals for free counseling for eligible veterans.

IWAP has been very successful, providing information and services to thousands of veterans, service members, and family members since it first launched. In fact, IWAP became a national model, used by the Department of Defense and the Centers for Disease Control in setting up similar programs for returning Veterans nationwide.

During FY2012, the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program website was accessed by 17,119 unique users. The Warrior Assistance Program call center was accessed by 444 individual users, with 36 resulting referrals to clinical and medical providers. There were 42 chat sessions on the IWAP website.

Outreach during FY2012 included online advertisement targeting markets to which service men and women returned upon completion of deployments in support of contingency operations. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is continuing new media outreach based on the success of reaching Veterans through online channels, including updated online tools for screening PTSD and TBI for returning combat Veterans. Ongoing efforts with the contractor, Magellan Healthcare, as well as the advertising agency, the Vandever Group, aim to increase the number of individuals accessing the program.

ILLINOIS VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Veterans Advisory Council was established effective July 1, 2004 by Public Act 093-0779 on July 21, 2004. In accordance with the Act,

Council members include:

- Four members of the General Assembly, appointed one each by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, preferably from a legislative or representative district in which a State-operated Veterans home is located.
- Six Veterans appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.
- One Veteran appointed by the commander or president of each Veteran Service Organization that is chartered by the federal government and by the State of Illinois and that elects to appoint an IVAC member.

Public Act 96-1266 increased the council Membership to include:

- one person appointed by the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard,
 - one person appointed by the Illinois Attorney General
 - one person appointed by the Illinois Secretary of State
 - one person appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security
 - one person appointed by each military family organization that is chartered by the federal government.
- In addition, no member of the council shall be an employee or representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Members of the Council serve without compensation or reimbursement. The Council meets quarterly as required and is available to meet at the call of the chairman or at the call of the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Governor. The Department provides meeting space and clerical and administrative support services for the Council.

The Council is empowered to:

- Advise the Department of Veterans' Affairs with respect to the fulfillment of its statutory duties.
- Review and study the issues and concerns that are most significant to Illinois Veterans and advise the Department on those issues and concerns.
- Receive a report from the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's designee at each meeting with respect to the general activities of the Department.

- Report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually describing the issues addressed and the actions taken by the council during the year as well as any recommendations for future action.

ACTIVITIES

In FY2012, the council held its quarterly meetings on:

- September 12, 2011 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), Danville, Illinois
- December 13, 2011 at the Illinois Executive Mansion, Springfield, Illinois
- March 7, 2012 at the IDVA Central Office, Springfield, Illinois
- June 19, 2012 at the IDVA Central Office, Springfield, Illinois.

During December 2011, at the request of the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, the IVAC hosted a series of town hall meetings to explore the maintenance fee structure for the Departments' Veterans' Homes and hear directly from residents, families and members of the veteran community.

Town Hall meetings were held at:

- Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna on December 4th, 2011 at 1:00 PM.
- Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy on December 6th, 2011 at 6:00 PM.
- Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle on December 8th, 2011 at 6:00 PM.
- Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno on December 10th, 2011 at 2:30 PM.

As a result of feedback received during these town hall meetings, the IVAC formally recommended to the Governor and Department that the maintenance fee structure be updated for the first time since 1979. This IVAC recommendation was accepted and will be implemented beginning in July 2012.

While maintenance fees will remain income-based, the maximum maintenance fee is increasing in a tiered manner. New residents admitted after July 1, 2012 will pay a maximum of \$1429 per month (a \$500 increase to the earlier monthly maximum), while residents admitted prior to that date will pay a maximum of \$1079 per month (a \$150 increase) in FY 2012, with incremental increases to reach a \$1429 per month cap in FY17. Additional changes to the maintenance fee structure include a doubling of the "deductible" members keep before the maintenance fee is assessed, and the implementation of a spouse "income floor" to better provide for the needs of residents' spouses living outside the Veterans' Homes. As has always been the case, no eligible Illinois veteran will be turned away for inability to pay the maximum maintenance fee.

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(FY 2012)

Terry Woodburn, *Chairman*
Director's Appointee

Ailene Williams, *Vice Chairman*
Director's Appointee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The Honorable Toi Hutchinson	Illinois State Senator
The Honorable Sue Rezin	Illinois State Senator
The Honorable Lisa Dugan	Illinois State Representative
The Honorable Jim Watson	Illinois State Representative

LTC Curt Ashby	Adjutant General of the ILNG
Grant Swinger	Office of the Attorney General
Gregory J. Curran	Secretary of State
Gil Laroche	IL Department of Employment Security

Terry Woodburn	Director's Appointee
Chad Watson	Director's Appointee
Ailene Williams	Director's Appointee
Sam Miller	Director's Appointee
Jack Price	Director's Appointee
(Vacant)	Director's Appointee

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Myron Kirby	The American Legion
Keith Witherell	AMVETS
Sharon McCauley	Blue Star Mothers of America
George Pempek	Catholic War Veterans
Ted Buck	Disabled American Veterans
Michelle Fitz-Henry	Gold Star Wives of America Inc
Jerry Seymour	Korean War Veterans
Daniel T. Finn	Military Order of the Purple Heart
Louis Meyers	Reserve Officers' Association
Herb Holderman	Veterans Assistance Commission
William Wolff	Veterans of Foreign Wars

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